

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method of packaging software comprising:
 providing a software package including a file having a name portion
 and a data portion;
 digitally signing the data portion of the file for authentication purposes;
 supplying information for inclusion in the software package; and
 modifying the name portion of the file to include the information.
2. The method of claim 1 including encoding the information prior to modifying
the name portion of the file.
3. The method of claim 1 including receiving the software package by a user's
computing device.
4. The method of claim 3 including downloading, by the user's computing
device, the software package from a software package distribution site.
5. The method of claim 4 including decoding, by the user's computing device,
the received software package to provide decoded information.
6. The method of claim 5 including installing the received software package on
the user's computing device.
7. The method of claim 6 including displaying the decoded information on the
user's computing device for observation by the user.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the information dynamically varies from software user to software user.
9. The method of claim 1 including wrapping the name portion and the data portion together to form a wrapped software package.
10. The method of claim 9 including providing the wrapped software package to the user's computing device.
11. The method of claim 10 including unwrapping the wrapped software package by the user's computing device.
12. The method of claim 1 wherein the information includes user settings.
13. The method of claim 12 wherein the information includes software configuration information.
14. The method of claim 1 wherein the data portion is an executable file.
15. A method of packaging software comprising:
 - receiving, by a distributor, software including a file having a name portion and a digitally signed data portion;
 - providing, by the distributor, information to be included with the software to form a software package; and
 - modifying the name portion of the file to include the information.
16. The method of claim 15 including encoding, by the distributor, the information prior to modifying the name portion of the file.

17. The method of claim 15 including receiving, by a user's computing device, the software package.
18. The method of claim 17 including downloading, by the user's computing device, the software package from a software package distribution site.
19. The method of claim 18 including decoding, by the user's computing device, the received software package to provide decoded information.
20. The method of claim 19 including installing the received software package on the user's computing device.
21. The method of claim 19 including displaying the decoded information on the user's computing device for observation by the user.
22. The method of claim 15 wherein the information dynamically varies from software user to software user.
23. The method of claim 15 including wrapping the name portion and the data portion together to form a wrapped software package.
24. The method of claim 23 including providing the wrapped software package to the user's computing device.
25. The method of claim 24 including unwrapping the wrapped software package by the user's computing device.
26. The method of claim 15 wherein the information includes user settings.

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27. The method of claim 15 wherein the information includes software configuration information.
28. The method of claim 15 wherein the data portion is an executable file.